

**IDSK
SEMINAR**

**Anandibai Joshi, Gurubai Karmakar,
Ida Scudder, and Clara Swain:
Education, missionaries, and women's
rights in Colonial India**

Speaker

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Date and Time

28 July 2023, 3.30 PM

Venue

Fifth Floor, IDSK

Abstract:

The social reform program followed by the expansion of female education in the late nineteenth century, allowed Indian women to pursue higher education, including medical education. Initially, most female medical students were Eurasians or Indian Christians, though there were some exceptions. This pattern continued till 1930s. Between 1935 and 1947 more number of Hindu and Muslim women pursued medicine as a career. During the colonial period, Indian women went abroad and pursued medicine at Woman's Medical College in Pennsylvania (hereafter WMCP) established in 1850. This study critically examines the role played by missionaries like Clara Swain and Ida Scudder from WMCP in the spread of education and female hygiene among Indian women. In the process, this paper examines the roles played by Anandibai Joshi, Gurubai Karmakar, and Dora Chatterjee who studied at WMCP in the spread of medical education among Indian women. These women were not just students to America but played a crucial role in the expansion of women's medical education in India. Despite discrimination, these women pioneered a new generation of Indian women who took responsibility for their own future, resisted colonial rule to fight for their rights, healthcare, and social development in general.

Sd/-

Simantini Mukhopadhyay

Convenor, Seminar Committee, IDSK